



GENEVA ELEMENTARY

Message From The Principal

Happy New (School) Year Geneva Families,

As we all say goodbye to summer and hello to a new, exciting school year, I just wanted to take a quick minute to both welcome our returning Gnomes back to school and welcome our new families into our school and community. While much of our school looks and feels similar this year, there are a few new things I would like to highlight:

- We have a new Dean of Students! Welcome to Ms. Hodge who will be working with our students, staff, and families to support strong social and emotional wellness. Beyond being Dean, Ms. Hodge will be teaching Spanish to our 5th grade students, in place of Chinese Language and Culture. Our hope is this experience in Spanish at 5th grade this year will lay a solid foundation for our students as they head into middle school next year, and beyond.
- September will bring Ms. Candy Luo, our new Chinese Language and Culture teacher. Similar to Ms. Grace, Ms. Luo will arrive in mid-September and begin teaching Chinese Language and Culture to our K-4 students. Similar to last year, each classroom will meet with Ms. Luo once per week. Ni Hao Ms Luo!
- Recess B4 Lunch! As many of our families have requested, we have started a new program here at Geneva. This year, during lunch break, students will first go out to recess and then head into lunch. We have already noticed the benefits of this change, with more food eaten, a quieter cafeteria, and less trash. So far...so good!
- We also will be offering Mountain Bike Club, some new and exciting enrichments, and bus #20 is now bus #1 (-: Wow! More information to come...

One of the core beliefs of our Bellingham Promise is that the whole child is important. This means that we need to not only focus on reading, writing, math, and science, but also art, world-language, healthy eating and fitness, and emotional wellness. To this end we are working to both maintain our strong academic program this year, and build our whole child focus and supports. As always, we are partners in the education of your student and welcome your input. Please don't hesitate to call or email me with any questions or concern.

I have enjoyed catching up with many of you and look forward to seeing you all at this Friday's annual PTA family night and Book Fair Kick-Off.

Together we achieve more than alone.

Steve

Welcome Back to the
2016-2017 School Year!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Early Release on **THURSDAYS 1:15** Early Release days this month: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th

Sept. 2-9	Book Fair
Sept. 2	PTA's Back to School Dinner 5:00-8:00
Sept. 5	NO SCHOOL—Labor Day
Sept. 13	PTA Staff Appreciation Lunch
Sept. 14	Mt. Bike Club 4th & 5th Grade only 3:45-5:00
Sept. 16	NO SCHOOL—Teacher Workday
Sept. 20	Individual Picture Day
Sept. 21	Mt. Bike Club 4th & 5th Grade only 4:00-5:30
Sept. 22	Curriculum Night Grades K-1-2 6:00-6:45 Grades 3-5 6:45-7:30
Sept. 22	PTA Meeting 6:00-7:00
Sept. 28	Mt. Bike Club 4th & 5th Grade only 4:00-5:30
Sept. 30	Jog-A-Thon

Upcoming....

Oct. 14	NO SCHOOL—Teacher Workday
Oct. 19	PTA Meeting
Oct. 21	PTA Pumpkin Carving Night
Oct. 21	Hearing & Vision Screening
Oct. 24	Hearing & Vision Screening

Harvest of the Month—September

Baked potato bar, with Ham, Cheese, Butter and Sour Cream! With local Carrot Cake Muffins! September 28th!

Reminder! Free & reduced lunch applications need to be filled out each year. Please turn in before Oct. 1 as students will start to be charged regular price! Thank you!

Meet Our Dean of Students!



Please join Geneva staff and families in welcoming Ms. Janae Hodge to Team Geneva as our Dean of Students. Ms. Hodge graduated from Pacific Lutheran University with her bachelors' degree in Spanish and in K-12 Education. She later completed her masters' degree at Western Washington University in Public School Administration. Ms. Hodge taught in Seattle for 8 years and has 16 years now in the Bellingham School District. She loves hiking, gardening, cooking, dogs, the Sounders and the Seahawks. Ms. Hodge speaks Spanish fluently and also serves as one of our district's interpreters for Spanish-speaking families. She is excited to be a member of Team Geneva. Her main work will be to support students as learners, building their social-emotional skills, solving problems together and recognizing students for making good choices.

Recess Before Lunch!

We are very excited to announce that student will be going to recess first and then heading to lunch this year! After many conversations with Geneva Parents in favor of this new schedule and the current research on recess before lunch, we feel this supports the mission and vision of our school and what is best practice for students.

Research states that students that have recess before lunch:

- Eat a more balanced diet and increase their food consumption
- Drink more milk
- Waste less food
- Have better lunchroom and classroom behavior
- Return back to the classroom calmer and ready to get to work immediately instead of needing cool-down time
- Have a decrease in discipline referrals
- Have a decreased number of office visits for headaches and stomachaches after recess

We hope that this new schedule will promote better nutrition and student achievement for all of our students. Please send a water bottle with your child every day. We have noticed that students are coming in from recess extremely thirsty on these hot days.

We appreciated your support and welcome any feedback you have on our new lunch schedule.

Bus Information

Every year we work as a district to provide safe, reliable, and timely bus service to our Sudden Valley and Geneva neighborhoods. This year we are adjusting service to best meet the variety of needs within our community. I understand these adjustments have caused some question and concern and assure you I am working daily with our Transportation department and local community to adjust and address our needs. As always, please look for me at bus stops, on the bus, or call, email, or stop by to share your thoughts and feedback. Together we achieve more than alone!

Steve

4th & 5th Grade Mt. Bike Club

New this Fall...Geneva Mountain Bike Club! This afterschool activity is open to 4th & 5th Grade Geneva Students. If you want to practice your mountain bike skills and do some trail riding, then pick up a registration packet and join us!

Registration forms must be signed and returned to the main office by September 9th! Act now, space is limited!

Here are the nuts & bolts:

Wednesday, Sept. 14th 3:45 - 5:00 p.m. we will do a skills clinic at Geneva Elementary. The skills clinic is mandatory to participate in the trail rides.

Wednesday Sept. 21st 4:00 - 5:30 Galbraith Trail Ride

Wednesday Sept. 28th 4:00 - 5:30 Galbraith Trail Ride

The WMBC (Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition) sponsors the Geneva Mountain Bike Club. Cost is \$15 per student. All proceeds will go to the WMBC. Ride leaders are Geneva Staff Members. For questions/information, please email Mrs. Lanham - Kathy.Lanham@bellingshamschools.org